

5 a converter configured to receive the first dc signal  
6 and to provide a converter output, and configured to receive  
7 at least one control input;

8 an output transformer configured to receive the  
9 converter output and to provide a third ac signal having a  
10 current suitable for welding;

11 an output circuit configured to receive the third ac  
12 signal and providing a welding signal; and

13 a controller, including a power factor correction  
14 circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
15 to the [inverter] converter.

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1 9. (Amended) A method of providing a welding current  
2 from a range of input voltages, comprising:

3 converting and power factor correcting [the] an ac  
4 input signal to a second ac signal; and

5 transforming the second ac signal into a third ac  
6 signal having a current suitable for welding[; and

7 receiving the ac input and providing an auxiliary power  
8 signal source at a preselected control power signal voltage,  
9 regardless of the magnitude of the ac input signal].

1 10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the  
2 step of converting the ac input signal includes the steps of  
3 converting the [dc] ac signal to a dc signal and inverting the dc  
4 signal to provide the second ac signal.

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1 12.15 (Amended) The method of claim 9, [wherein the]  
2 including a step of providing [the] auxiliary power signal  
3 [includes the step of] by transforming the ac input signal.

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1 17.16 (Amended) A welding power source for providing a  
2 welding current from a range of input voltages, comprising:  
3 rectifier means for receiving an ac input and providing  
4 a first dc signal;